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Borough of Bury St. Edmunds

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# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE



# Medical Officer of Health

1962.

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BURY ST. EDMUNDS

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THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS  
OF THE BOROUGH OF BURY ST. EDMUNDS

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Public Health Service for the year 1962.

The Registrar General's estimate of the population showed a slight decrease. The corrected birth and death rates changed only fractionally from the figures of the previous year, but in each case the movement was in a favourable direction.

The incidence of infectious disease was very low.

A record attendance figure was obtained at the fourth public X-ray survey which was conducted by the Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

Of all the environmental services affecting the public health the most important local improvement which has been made for a number of years was the opening for full use of the Council's new sewage disposal works at Fornham Park.

The first slaughterhouse to be built in Bury St. Edmunds since the war, in fact the first to be built since long before the war, was opened during the year. These premises replaced an old slaughterhouse which, like the others in the town, did not measure up to modern standards.

The condemnation of more than 34 tons of meat, poultry and other foods is evidence of the continued vigilance of your Public Health Inspectors. The percentage of diseased meat was lower than in the previous year, and although the weight of poultry condemned was more than doubled it represented only a fraction of 1% of the birds killed for human consumption.

The rate of progress in slum clearance has been disappointing and only 43 houses were demolished which is the second lowest figure since 1956. However, 344 houses were improved or repaired as a result of the formal or informal action of your officers and this figure has only been exceeded on 2 occasions in the past decade.

My thanks are due to all members of the Public Health Department and especially to Mr. E. H. Box, your Chief Public Health Inspector, for his loyal support at all times and for his help in the compilation of this report.

Finally I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest and encouragement.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

P. COGGIN BROWN,

*Medical Officer of Health.*

Typical houses in the Council's Clearance Areas, 1962



# Public Health Officers of the Authority

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*MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH*

P. Coggin Brown, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.,

*CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR*

E. H. Box, M.A.P.H.I.,

*SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR*

J. Ellis, M.A.P.H.I.,

*ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR*

G. Harrison, M.A.P.H.I..

*CLERK*

Miss A. D. Wright

## VITAL STATISTICS.

ALL FIGURES IN BRACKETS, which follow in the sequence of this report, relate to the corresponding figures for 1961.

Registrar General's Estimate for 1962		21,680	(21,760)
Census April, 1961	....	....	....
Rateable Value	....	....	....
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate (Est.)	....	£3,540	
Area	....	....	....
		3,623	acres

**POPULATION:**—The Registrar General's estimate of the population shows a reduction of 80.

**BIRTHS:**—There was a further slight increase in the birth rate following the sharp rise of the previous year, but the rate remained rather below the national figure.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate .....	360 (364)	173 (177)	187 (187)
Illegitimate .....	18 (10)	9 (4)	9 (6)
Crude Birth Rate, per 1,000 of population		17.4	(17.2)
Comparability Factor for Births		1.01	(1.01)
Birth Rate per 1,000 corrected for comparability	17.6	(17.4)	
,, , per 1,000 of population	England		
	and Wales	18.0	(17.4)

STILLBIRTHS	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ....	7 (5)	4 (1)	3 (4)
Illegitimate ....	- (-)	- (-)	- (-)
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	18.2 (13.2)		
" " "	" "	" "	" "
	England and Wales		18.1 (18.7)

**DEATHS:**—The rise in the crude death rate was due to the occurrence of 6 more deaths than in the previous year together with the slight reduction in the estimated population. However, the application of a more favourable comparability factor has caused the corrected death rate to decline slightly to 10.4 per 1,000 of the population, which is below the corresponding rate for England and Wales and just below that for the County of West Suffolk.

Fewer deaths occurred from heart disease and from all forms of cancer, but 7 deaths were caused by cancer of the lung. There was an increase in the number of deaths from pneumonia and bronchitis. Eleven deaths occurred from accidental causes, 2 of which were due to motor vehicle accidents. Two deaths occurred from suicide.

DEATHS:—	Total	Male	Female
	264 (258)	120 (126)	144 (132)
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of population			12.2 (11.9)
Comparability Factor for Deaths			0.85 (0.89)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population corrected for comparability			10.4 (10.6)
Death Rate per 1,000 of population England and Wales			11.9 (12.0)

**INFANT MORTALITY:**—The actual number of infant deaths increased from 5 to 8 and in consequence the infant mortality rate increased from the low figure of the previous year to slightly above the rate for England and Wales. Congenital abnormalities and prematurity were the main causes of the infant deaths, 5 of which occurred in the first week of life.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age—			
	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate ....	8 (5)	3 (3)	5 (2)
Illegitimate ....	— (—)	— (—)	— (—)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births			21.2 (13.4)
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births England and Wales			20.7 (21.4)

CAUSES OF DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1962  
IN BURY ST. EDMUNDS.

Registrar General's  
Figures.

			M.	F.
ALL CAUSES	....	....	120 (126)	144(132)
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	....	1 (—)	1 ( 1)
2	Tuberculosis, other	....	— (—)	— (—)
3	Syphilitic disease	....	— (—)	1 (—)
4	Diphtheria	....	— (—)	— (—)
5	Whooping Cough	....	— (—)	— (—)
6	Meningococcal infections	....	— (—)	— (—)
7	Acute poliomyelitis	....	— (—)	— (—)
8	Measles	....	— ( 1)	— (—)
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	....	— ( 1)	— (—)
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	....	1 ( 5)	— ( 1)
11	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	....	7 ( 8)	— ( 3)
12	Malignant neoplasm, breast	....	— (—)	3 ( 5)
13	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	....	— (—)	3 ( 3)
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10 ( 9)	12 ( 9)	
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	....	— ( 1)	— ( 1)
16	Diabetes	....	— ( 1)	2 ( 4)
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	22 ( 26)	32 ( 28)	
18	Coronary disease, angina	....	20 ( 38)	24 ( 23)
19	Hypertension with heart disease	....	— (—)	1 ( 4)
20	Other heart disease	....	6 ( 3)	12 ( 9)
21	Other circulatory disease	....	2 ( 3)	7 ( 6)
22	Influenza	....	1 ( 1)	— ( 2)
23	Pneumonia	....	14 ( 5)	19 ( 16)
24	Bronchitis	....	12 ( 10)	2 ( 2)
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	2 ( 1)	3 (—)	
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	....	1 (—)	2 ( 1)
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	....	1 ( 1)	1 (—)
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	....	— ( 2)	1 (—)
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	....	1 (—)	— (—)
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	....	— (—)	— (—)
31	Congenital malformations	....	1 (—)	4 (—)
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7 ( 7)	12 ( 8)	
33	Motor vehicle accidents	....	2 ( 1)	— (—)
34	All other accidents	....	7 ( 2)	2 ( 6)
35	Suicide	....	2 (—)	— (—)
36	Homicide and operations of war	....	— (—)	— (—)

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Very few notifications of infectious diseases were received. This was mainly due to the almost complete freedom from measles and whooping cough, however, with the exception of 2 cases of dysentery which were reported from the local hospital and neither of whom were residents of Bury St. Edmunds, there were reductions in the number of notifications under every heading.

**TYPHOID FEVER:**—No case was reported in the district, but two children who had been in contact with a fatal case in another county were traced and kept under surveillance.

**SMALLPOX:**—The tracing of contacts and their vaccination and surveillance are of paramount importance in the control of the spread of this disease.

A case of smallpox occurred aboard an ocean going passenger liner on the homeward voyage from the Far East, and it was considered that all persons aboard should be regarded as possible smallpox contacts. One member of the crew of this vessel travelled to his home in Bury St, Edmunds where he was kept under surveillance until the incubation period of the disease had expired.

On another occasion during the year, whilst acting in the absence of the Medical Officer of Health of a nearby district, it was necessary to trace a young Chinese woman who had travelled by sea from Singapore and was considered to be a smallpox contact. Unfortunately the notification of her intention to come to this district was delayed in the post, and, although the home was visited within an hour of receipt of the message she had already left with a boy friend for an unknown destination. Her boy friend was on leave from the Royal Navy and was not due to report to his new unit until a date after the period of danger would have elapsed. Extensive enquiries were made from the Station Master, Booking Clerks and Porters at the local railway station and at a junction station in an adjoining county, from whom it was ascertained with some certainty that the couple

had departed by train, but by a most unfortunate mischance they arrived late for the train and had boarded without tickets so that no one knew their destination. At this stage the available evidence was reviewed and it was thought there were reasonable grounds to suspect that this elusive couple might be heading for a certain town in the North of England. All the available evidence, which was scanty, and much of it based on supposition, was passed to the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned, and it is most gratifying to record that in a very short time the contact was traced in that district and placed under medical surveillance. This story shows how helpful it would be if known smallpox contacts before entering this Country were required to supply full details of their proposed whereabouts throughout the period of risk rather than just their immediate destinations.

AGE INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.  
(other than Tuberculosis).

DISEASE	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 and over	Age Un- known	Totals
	9										3
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—	—
Pneumonia	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Infective Hepatitis	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Dysentery	..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2
Scarlet Fever	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

(other than Tuberculosis).

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals
Measles .:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	3
Pneumonia .:	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	3
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Dysentery .:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever .:	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS:—Nine (9) new cases, including one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis, were notified during the year.

### PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

#### Age and Sex distribution of new cases, 1962

Age	0	1	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	55	65+	Total
Male	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—	4
Female	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	4

MASS X-RAY SURVEY:—The Mass Radiography Unit of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board conducted the fourth public X-ray survey at Bury St. Edmunds.

The unit was stationed for a time at the Athenaeum, at St. George's Hall, at the Drummond Hall, and at three separate industrial sites. Vigorous efforts were made to attract persons employed in the food and drink trades, who were invited to attend special sessions. On the Mildenhall Road housing estate an attempt was made to conduct a community survey where volunteer canvassers called at many houses to arrange appointments. The response of the public was most encouraging, and in this connection the help from the Press and from many voluntary organisations and individuals is gratefully acknowledged. The total attendance of 8,202 persons exceeded by 1,100 the previous record figure which was reached at the last visit of the unit in 1958.

It has been estimated that some 5,400 of those who attended were residents of Bury St. Edmunds. It is believed that the achievement of such a good response was largely due to the Council's action in permitting the use of such ideally situated premises as the Athenaeum foyer. Another important factor may well have been the increasing interest shown by the public in the promotion of health.

PROBLEM FAMILIES:—Problem Families Case Committees, each under the Chairmanship of the respective District Medical Officer of Health, were appointed for an experimental period of one year in the Central, Western and Southern areas of the County, together with a County Co-ordinating Committee.

Meetings of the Central Area Case Committee covering the areas of the Borough of Bury St. Edmunds and the Thingoe Rural District were held approximately quarterly when detailed discussions ensued concerning a small number of real problem families. The meetings were well attended by members and officers of many voluntary organisations and by officers of the various Authorities concerned. From the first meeting onwards it was evident that there was a genuine attempt by the representatives of the many different departments and organisations to work together for the benefit of each problem family, both by ensuring that the full weight of available social and welfare services should be applied at the proper time and by endeavouring to reduce the number of persons regularly visiting each family. The meetings have enabled the various field workers to get together and to hear the other person's point of view, but progress with problem families must be expected to be slow and the amount of effort, man hours and goodwill needed is very large in comparison with the small number of families involved. It was the opinion of the Central Area Committee that the meetings were serving a useful purpose and should be continued. The development from the main Committee of much smaller ad hoc Committees may do much to reduce the time spent by the main Committee.

#### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

**WATER:**— During the year 8 water samples were taken from the Council's swimming pool and 5 were taken from 2 private swimming pools. Forty-four samples were taken from houses and business premises receiving their water supply from private wells.

The examination of samples from 3 domestic premises showed evidence of contamination. However, after steps were taken to remedy the defects found, satisfactory reports were received for every supply.

Bacteriological examination of the water from the Council's swimming pool, and from one private pool belonging to a school showed satisfactory results, but samples from the other private pool were again unsatisfactory.

RADIATION HAZARDS AND CONTROL:— Your Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector attended a short “background” course on radiation hazards and control which was held in the evenings at the School of Science, the Technical College, Ipswich. The Officers concerned would like to record their appreciation of being given the opportunity to attend.

EXHUMATION:—The bodies of 4 German war dead were exhumed at the Bury St. Edmunds Cemetery and transported for re-interment at a German War Cemetery in Cheshire. Officers of this department supervised the exhumations which were conducted in a proper manner and with due regard to privacy and precautions to safeguard the public health.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL:—In the Annual Report for 1950, the year I was appointed as your Medical Officer of Health, I wrote the words:—“attention is drawn to the urgent need for an improved sewage disposal system” and described the Council’s sewage farm at West Stow as “quite inadequate to treat the volume of sewage which is being delivered to it” and as “incapable of producing an effluent of a desirable standard.” Further strongly worded, but not exaggerated, adverse comments were made in the Annual Reports of the years that followed. Therefore it gives me the utmost pleasure to record that the Council’s new sewage works in Fornham Park came into full use during the year under review.

INSANITARY HOUSES:—A number of visits were made by your Public Health Inspectors to dirty houses where vigorous efforts were made to secure improvement in the conditions although it was often difficult to obtain the co-operation of the occupiers.

At one house where the elderly tenant living alone had been found by the Police to have died suddenly from natural causes, the department was asked to assist in clearing and cleansing the premises. This house, which was in a poor state of repair and already the subject of a closing order, was so crammed with packages and parcels in addition to normal furnishings as to make movement from one room

to another quite difficult. The packages contained a great variety of articles, mostly clothing and much of it of great age although unused and in the original wrappings. The house took two days to clear.

*The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer:—*

## WATER

### GENERAL.

Throughout the year the supply of water to all parts of the Borough has been adequate and wholesome. The Annual consumption of 388,000,000 gallons shows no increase over the previous year, which is accounted for by the very low demand for garden watering due to the rather cold, damp summer.

### ANALYSIS

The usual sampling of water was carried out throughout the year and in all 96 samples of treated water from consumers' taps and 30 samples of untreated raw water direct from the boreholes were analysed. The results indicated that a high standard of purity was being maintained.

### NEW SUPPLY MAINS

Water mains have been extended to serve new housing development on Westley Estate and Rosemary Road (Council Houses) and Gainsborough Estate and Bell Meadow (Private Development). In addition, a new feeder main has been laid in Petticoat Lane and an extension was carried out in Spring Lane. On Hardwick Heath, a main has been provided and public taps set up to provide for various functions, e.g. South Suffolk Show. A start was made during the year on the provision of a new main to connect the Klondyke to Tollgate Lane and to serve the new County Girls' Grammar School.

## EDUCATION

Parties of School Children, Nurses, and members of the Townswomen's Guild and the Ratepayers' Association have been conducted around the King's Road Pumping Station and the West Road Reservoirs and Water Tower during the year, and requests have been received for further inspections to be made in 1963. There appears to be an increasing interest in this aspect of Borough work.

## WEATHER STATISTICS 1962.

The temperature fell below freezing point ( $32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). on 100 days during the year and only during the months of July, August, and September was no frost recorded. The lowest temperature reached (28th December 1962) was  $10^{\circ}\text{F}$ . and the highest  $84^{\circ}\text{F}$ . (8th June). The total rainfall for the year amounted to 21.71 inches, the wettest month being July with 3.23 inches. The average rainfall per month was 1.81 inches, and the wettest day was 26th July, when 1.46 inches of rain fell. The average annual rainfall over the last ten years was 26.87 inches.

## SWIMMING POOL

Due to the generally cool summer, attendances were not high except during the warm spell in the middle of June. However, there was limited regular use of the pool throughout the season and several schools, the Army, the local Swimming Club and the Central Council of Physical Recreation had regular sessions for training purposes.

## REFUSE DISPOSAL

The burning of refuse at the Destructor finally ceased at the end of March, 1962. Controlled tipping at the Haberden continued until the end of May when all exposed refuse was completely covered with soil and later sown with grass seed. Controlled tipping at West Stow on the disused Sewage Farm was commenced at the end of May and has continued throughout the year. Arrangements have

been made for a large number of trees to be planted to form adequate screening.

### SEWAGE DISPOSAL WORKS

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Fornham Park came into full use during the year and all sewage from the Borough is now treated at these works. The standard of final effluent passing to the River Lark improved as the works were put into full use and is now of a standard acceptable to the River Board.

### OUTFALL SEWER

The construction of the new outfall sewer from the town to Fornham Park was recommenced in July 1962 and at the end of the year this whole scheme was a little more than half finished. It is now expected that the scheme will be in full use by about the autumn of 1963.

### INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Progress has been maintained during the year in the modernisation of shops within the Borough and it is pleasing to report that as some projects are completed others are being prepared.

Many of the risks of food poisoning which were present in the methods of food storage and display in the old fashioned and badly equipped shops are, by this modernisation, being avoided. Open food is protected against contamination and is kept at reasonably low temperatures in refrigerated counters. More shopkeepers are prohibiting animals from entering their premises and are requesting customers not to smoke whilst in the shop. The shops present a bright, clean appearance and everything can be easily cleansed. In themselves these things are excellent and go a long way to ensuring that the public are offered a clean safe food.

However, it would be wrong to be complacent about the general improvement. New equipment must still be maintained and proper use made of it; because of this fresh problems are arising and, when these shops are inspected, it is often noted that refrigerated cabinets

are overloaded, instances have been observed where shopkeepers, selling frozen foods were not ensuring that the packets were kept below the "loading" line and the top few packets were becoming soft. In "self service" stores there have been instances where too many bacon packets have been prepared for sale that day and, as a result, when eventually sold mould has been found appearing on the rashers. This sort of thing can happen to any wrapped meat and proper care should be taken to avoid it. It is also important that staff should be properly trained in food handling and your officers have given several lectures with this object in mind.

Periodic inspections have been carried out of the kitchens and canteen at the West Suffolk General Hospital but unfortunately, due to various staffing difficulties at the Hospital, short courses of instruction on food hygiene by members of this department have not been given to the food handlers as was hoped.

A visit was made to Holland by the members of the Eastern Centre of the Association of Public Health Inspectors where Dutch methods of preparation and handling of food were studied, together with housing standards and many other subjects concerning the public health. The Chief Public Health Inspector would like to express his gratitude for being allowed the opportunity to attend.

## ANALYSIS OF CONDEMNED

## Cattle

	Whole Carcasses	Heads & Tongues	Lungs	Livers & Pt. Livers	Skirts	Hearts	Whole Carcasses	Lungs
Tuberculosis		3	1	1				
Pneumonia Pericarditis Pleurisy, Peritonitis Melanosis and Emphysema			19			1		148
Pyaemia, Pyrexia Gangrene, Septicaemia	2						2	
Liver Fluke, Cirrhosis and other Parasitic conditions			4	174				109
Nephritis, Necrosis Degeneration and Contamination, C. Angioma				61				
Emaciation and Oedema	4						8	
Actinomycosis and Actinobacillosis		4	1					
Tumours, Abscesses Cystic conditions, Adhesions and Odour	1	7	5	137	1	1		2
Swine Fever								
C. Bovis		39					16	
Icterus and Uraemia	2							
Swine Erysipelas								
Moribund, Bruising, etc.			1	1			1	
TOTALS .....	9	53	31	374	1	18	11	259

The following Carcase Meat was also condemned :—

## BEEF

Bruising, Atrophy, or Decomposition	.....	.....	7 lb.
Abscesses .....	.....	.....	—
Arthritis .....	.....	.....	40 lb.

The total weight of all meat condemned in the

## MEAT AND OFFAL.

## Sheep

## Pigs

## Calves

Livers	Hearts	Whole Carcasses	Part Carcasses	Heads	Lungs	Livers	Hearts	Kidneys	Whole Carcasses	Hearts	Livers	Lungs
		1	1	79								
		3			221		81					1
		4							1			
29					9	69						
4						2		4				
		2							1			
2		1		4		7		5			1	
		3										
		5										
		3										
35		22	1	83	230	78	81	9	2		1	1

## MUTTON

43 lb.

—

33 lb.

## PORK

420 lb.

4 lb.

189 lb.

## VEAL

8 lb.

—

8 lb.

slaughterhouses was 7 tons. 9 cwts. — qrs. 1 lb.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or part.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known) ....	3323	322	115	6779	4962	—
Number inspected ....	3323	322	115	6779	4962	—
<b>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS AND CYSTICERCI</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ....	6	3	2	11	21	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	351	69	4	305	446	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	10.7	22.4	5.2	4.7	9.4	—
<b>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</b>						
Whole carcasses condemned ....	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ....	2	3	—	—	80	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ....	.06	.93	—	—	1.6	—
<b>CYSTICERCI</b>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	54*	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	53	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

C. Bovis 1.5% of total cattle inspected \* 1 beast affected with C. Bovis totally condemned for an other reason

MILK:—Eighty-two samples of pasteurised milk from Bury St. Edmunds were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge by the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures of the West Suffolk County Council and, in order to avoid duplication of work, copies of the laboratory reports relating to these samples were made available to this department. All of these samples passed the Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Ten samples of raw milk were submitted by members of this department for examination by biological methods. No evidence of Tuberculosis or Brucella abortus was detected.

ICE CREAM:—Seventy-one premises were registered for the storage and sale of ice cream. In addition to 35 inspections at these premises 82 (76) samples of ice cream were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination by the Methylene Blue Reduction Test, 69 of which were classified in provisional grade I ; 11, in grade II and 2 in grade III. Faulty manufacture was believed to be the reason for the Grade III samples.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES:—In August the first of the new slaughterhouses came into operation in Cotton Lane. The premises were officially opened in October by the Chairman of the Public Health Committee. The remaining two old slaughterhouses are due to be closed in 1963 when, it is hoped, the second new slaughterhouse will be erected in Hollow Road.

During the year one of the Poultry Packing Stations was issued with a slaughterhouse licence for the slaughter of rabbits only.

MEAT INSPECTION:—The total number of animals killed for human consumption in the Borough was 15,501 – an increase of 1,421 over the previous year.

Although the number of animals killed has increased it is of interest to note that the actual amount of meat condemned has fallen. Tuberculosis in cattle has become quite rare – only 5 animals being found infected out of a total of 3,645. The Cysticercus Bovis cyst has been found in 1.5% of the cattle inspected as against 2% last year.

Total number of animals killed  
for human consumption

1953	11,552
1954	12,301
1955	14,298
1956	14,396
1957	14,997
1958	16,227
1959	16,280
1960	15,177
1961	14,080
1962	15,501

**POULTRY:**—Routine visits to all the poultry slaughterhouses within the Borough have been continued and 23 tons 3 cwts. 3 qrs. 15 lb. were condemned. 8,284 chickens, 7,523 hens and 177 other poultry were condemned. The principal causes of condemnation were leukaemia, tuberculosis and birds found dead on arrival at the slaughterhouses. 86 tame rabbits were also condemned.

It is estimated that over 2 million birds were slaughtered within the Borough during the year and that the number of birds condemned represents about .75% of the throughput.

Over the past few years there has been a large increase in the consumption of poultry in this country. It is therefore all the more important that thorough inspections are made to prevent diseased carcasses reaching the shops and the public. It is to be hoped that the policy of this Council in ensuring that routine daily inspections of poultry made at the slaughterhouses will be extended throughout the country.

One of the existing poultry slaughterhouses was completely modernised during the year.

**FOOD PREMISES:**—The number of food premises in the area classified by type of business, the number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the number

of inspections of these premises, which were made during the year, are recorded in the accompanying table.

	Number Registered under Sect. 16 F. & D. Act.	*Total Number of premises.	Number of inspections made.
Butchers and Pork Butchers	18	21	85 (59)
Bakers	....	—	37 (43)
Confectioners	....	—	40 (52)
Fish - Wet	....	1	4 (16)
Fish - Fried	....	9	10 (30)
Greengrocers	....	—	14 (46)
General Provisions	....	1	60 (108)
Hotels	....	—	11 (34)
Licensed Premises (excluding hotels)	}{ ....	—	77 146 (80)
Restaurants, Cafés and Canteens	....	—	59 172 (162)
Food Stalls	....	—	36 207 (168)
Other Food Premises	....	—	37 59 (66)

\*These figures should be regarded as approximate because in many cases different businesses are conducted from the same premises.

UNSOUND FOOD:—Foodstuffs found to be unfit for human consumption and diverted to other purposes or destroyed were:—

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lb.
Cheese	....	—	1 3	24
Liquid Egg*	....	1	3 1	—
Fish	....	—	1 2	12
Desiccated Coconut	....	—	1 —	18
Poultry	....	23	3 3	15
Fruit	....	—	4 —	26
Ham (tinned)	....	—	6 2	23
Tinned Meat, 550 tins	....	—	7 1	5
Tinned Vegetables, Milk, Fish, Fruit, etc., 2,486 tins	....	1	6 —	6
Meat and Rabbits	....	—	2 1	26
Miscellaneous	....	—	1 2	6
 TOTAL	....	27	2 2	—
Meat and Offals (at slaughterhouses)	....	7	9 —	1
 TOTAL	....	34	9 —	22

\*The large quantity of frozen liquid egg recorded above was voluntarily surrendered following the break-down of the refrigeration plant at an egg packing station.

Number of certificates of condemnation issued 2,534 (2,320).

**METHODS OF DISPOSAL OF UNSOUND FOOD:**—Since the closure of the Council's refuse destructor early in the year all poultry and unsound food other than meat was buried at the Council's West Stow refuse tip. The arrangements for the disposal of diseased meat and offal from the slaughterhouses remain unchanged.

### DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACT, 1950

On the 12th January, 1962 the Borough was included in a Fowl Pest Infected Area. These restrictions were removed on the 23rd February, 1962 only to be reimposed on 26th July, and again removed on the 3rd October,

The Borough was included in a Swine Fever Order on the 15th May 1962 which lasted until the 26th July,

During the year 4,274 (5,482) swine and poultry movement licences were issued by the department.

### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The number of inspections made by the staff of this department and of treatments by the Council's operator were as follows:—

#### PRIVATE DWELLINGS

Inspections	1,790
Treatments	504

#### BUSINESS AND OTHER PREMISES

Inspections	986
Treatments	90

In addition to the above 2 maintenance treatments were carried out on the sewerage system of the town and periodical inspections and treatments were made at the sewage works, refuse destructor and refuse tip. Seven major infestations of rodents were treated during the year.

During the summer months numerous complaints were received regarding wasp's nests and most of the nests were destroyed.

## FACTORIES ACT 1961

During the year special attention was given to the inspection of factories within the Borough. These inspections revealed a large number of contraventions of the Act, most of which were due to lack of cleanliness and disrepair. The majority of the conditions found were remedied by December. However, such a concentrated effort did reveal, once again, the necessity for regular inspections of such premises.

**1.—INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors.)

	Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
			Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted.
i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ....		17	16	6	
ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority .....		177	407	70	
iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ....		41	33	—	
Total	....	235	456	76	

**2.—Cases in which DEFECTS were found.**

Particulars.	Found.	Number of cases in which defects were found		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
		Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ....	52	48		
Overcrowding (S.2) ....				
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)				
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ....	8	6		
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	4	4		
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) ....				
(a) Insufficient ....	2	1		
(b) Unsuitable or defective	27	19		
(c) Not separate for sexes ....	1	1		
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ....	1	1		3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>80</b>		<b>3</b>

**OUTWORK.**

(Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work.	Section 110.			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel, Making, etc.	10	4				
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>				

## HOUSING

The Ministry of Health no longer require details on housing matters to be included in the Annual Reports of Medical Officers of Health, but because so much of your officers' time is devoted to this subject some brief notes are recorded below :—

**Building Progress.** New housing accommodation provided during 1962 was as follows :—

<b>LOCAL AUTHORITY</b>		Under construction on
Completed in 1962		31st December, 1962
107		66

It should be noted that 77 of the houses completed and 33 of those under construction at the end of the year were for town development purposes.

<b>PRIVATE ENTERPRISE</b>		Under construction on
Completed in 1962.		31st December, 1962.
95		59

**IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSES:**—Work in connection with the modernisation of the Council's pre-war houses was continued and a further 12 houses were completed in 1962.

**OVERCROWDING:**—Two cases of statutory overcrowding were abated but a further 2 houses were known to be overcrowded at the end of the year.

**SLUM CLEARANCE:**—Progress has been somewhat slower than in previous years. Since 1955 when the Council's present programme started 310 unfit houses have been demolished, and a further 230 have had closing or demolition orders placed upon them or have been included in clearance areas. In 1962 43 houses were demolished.

Sixty-five families were displaced from sub-standard houses during the year, of these 41 were re-housed by the Council.

The number of houses being completed to re-house families from these sub-standard properties has not achieved the desired target in recent years and, until the backlog of the re-housing has been removed it may well be necessary to slow or even stop slum clearance work in the Borough.

**COMPLAINTS:**—During the year 947 (1,003) complaints were received in the department about various matters, all of which were investigated and appropriate action taken where necessary.

**HOUSING REPAIRS:**—Another important duty of the department is the encouragement of repairs and improvements to houses which can be made fit for human habitation and modernised. In this connection it is gratifying to report that 344 unfit or defective houses were repaired during 1962 as a result of the formal or informal action of your officers. The following list shows details of the work completed :—

Roofs repaired .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	105
Guttering and rainwater down pipes repaired or renewed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	82
External walls repaired or repointed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	119
Doors repaired or renewed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Chimneys, flues and fireplaces repaired .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	67
Floors repaired or renewed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	65
Windows repaired or enlarged, etc. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	133
Dampness remedied .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	144
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	100
Stairs and staircases repaired .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	30
Food stores provided .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	47
Internal water supplies provided .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Sinks provided or renewed .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15
Water closets repaired .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	45
Additional water closets provided .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Drainage – repairs and improvements .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	79
External decoration .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Yard pavements repaired .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Dry Rot remedied .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	24
Miscellaneous .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	29
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<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>1,153</b>

**DUSTBINS:**—At the end of the year 1,097 (984) bins had been provided under the Council's dustbin scheme.

## INSPECTIONS

1.	Houses — defects and nuisances	559	(663)
2.	Houses — Survey and Housing Acts	1134	(1818)
3.	Housing Act — (Improvement Grants)	248	(232)
4.	Houses — re-visits .....	1177	(1164)
5.	Rent Act .....	10	(12)
6.	Verminous or insanitary houses .....	46	(41)
7.	Visits in connection with verminous persons	14	(16)
8.	Drainage work .....	573	(340)
9.	Public Health Act — Section 75	27	(58)
10.	Mass X-Ray .....	72	(—)
11.	Clean Air Act .....	32	(50)
12.	Infectious Diseases enquiries .....	29	(34)
13.	Shops Act .....	230	(166)
14.	Interviews with owners, etc. ....	635	(619)
15.	Noise Abatement Act. ....	7	(43)
16.	Slaughterhouses....	821	(815)
17.	Poultry inspection .....	1103	(929)
18.	Stables and piggeries .....	18	(14)
19.	Diseases of Animals Act .....	161	(110)
20.	Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare Provisions) Act, 1956 .....	23	(13)
21.	Pets Act .....	11	(10)
22.	Schools .....	8	(18)
23.	Petrol installations .....	67	(212)
24.	Explosives stores .....	41	(72)
25.	Caravans .....	167	(202)
26.	Outworkers .....	45	(8)
27.	Ponds, pools and ditches .....	21	(50)
28.	Rag, Flock and Other Fillings Act, 1951	1	(2)
29.	Destructor and tips .....	8	(30)
30.	Unsound Food .....	211	(177)
31.	Hairdressers and barbers .....	44	(38)
32.	Game Act .....	4	(4)
33.	Offices .....	17	(11)
34.	Miscellaneous .....	94	(160)
	TOTAL .....	7558	(8131)



